achieving a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world.

(b) The Agreement on Nuclear Arms signed by the Heads of States of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazhakistan on 21st December, 1991 in Alma Ata specifically states that the Parties to the Agreement "undertake not to transfer to anyone nuclear weapons or other triggering device either directly or indirectly as well as not in any way to help, encourage and prompt any State not possessing nuclear weapons to produce nuclear weapons or other nuclear triggering devices and also control over such weapons or triggering devices".

News item regarding Mountbatten's views during partition

@4405-A. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem under the caption 'Mountbatten did not show any favour to India in Partition' appearing in "The Business and Political Observer", New Delhi dated the 27th February, 1992;

(b) if so, details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to countenance this situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item related to a claim by Mr. Christopher Beaumont Secretary to the late Sir Cyril Redcliffe that the award of Ferozepur and Zira sub-districts to India in the partition was done under pressure from Mountbatten.

(c) Our mission in London has explained the correct facts regarding the Redcliffe Award to those who have raised this controversy and to influential opinion-makers in UK.

Capability of Pakistan to produce nuclear bomb

£4405-B. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan had recently admitted in an interview to Washington Post that his country is capable of making nuclear bomb;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review its stand on making nuclear bomb in view of the anticipated threat to our defence; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Security situation of India remains constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood. The Government of India will take all necessary measures designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Modernisation of Pakistan with Chinese help

ff4405-C. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports about modernisation by Pakistan with Chinese help of fifty Mirage-3 aircrafts, in violation of its pledge at the time of their purchase from Australia that their parts would be taken out and used for their aircrafts;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction therefor; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Australian Government, if so, what is their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) While Government have seen press reports on this subject, there is no confirmation available to this effect.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3576, transferred from the 25th March, 1992.
£Previously Unstarred Question 3871, transferred from 26th March, 1992.
ffPreviously Unstarred Question 3872, transferred from 26th March, 1992.